

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

S. ICHIMURA et al

Serial No.

Filed: March 14, 2001

For: NEUTRAL BEAM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHODPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Once Amended) A neutral beam processing apparatus  
according to claim 2, further comprising potential difference  
adjusting means for making a potential difference between a  
neutralization cell wall defining said neutralization cell and  
said conductive member.

6. (Once Amended) A neutral beam processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, further comprising electron  
replenishing means for supplying or generating electrons in  
said neutralization cell.